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THE AMERICAN
INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

WEEKLY BULLETIN



WASHINGTON, D. C.

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Volume 20

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, NOVEMBER 5, 1946

No. 45

Dean Bennett Elected President Detroit Chapter, A.I.A.

Wells I. Bennett, Dean of the College of Architecture and Design, University of Michigan, was elected President of the Detroit Chapter of The American Institute of Architects at its Annual Meeting in the Rackham Building, Detroit, on October 24. He succeeds Clair W. Ditchy, FAIA, who had served two terms.

David H. Williams, Jr., was elected Vice-president; Charles B. McGrew, Secretary; Cornelius L. T. Gabler, Treasurer; Talmage C. Hughes, Executive Secretary, and Andrew R. Morison, Director.

Most of the reports of officers and directors had been published and they were approved, as was the report of the last annual meeting. However, some reports were given at the meeting, including that of President Ditchy, Treasurer Cowin, Practice Committee by Henry F. Stanton, FAIA, and Architects' Civic Design Group by Branson V. Gamber, FAIA. These reports were accepted. President Ditchy recounted in a very brief but impressive manner some of the accomplishments of the Chapter during the past two years. He stated that the future holds a challenge for the new officers, which he felt sure they would meet with credit to themselves and to the Chapter.

The Treasurer's Report was most gratifying, showing assets of more than double those when he took office two years ago. This, in view of the fact that Chapter dues have remained at ten dollars per year, while \$3.50 of this amount now goes to the Michigan Society of Architects, is significant. John C. Thornton, Carl B. Marr and Gerald G. Diehl were named as an auditing committee.

Stanton's report had to do mostly with

observations on the subject of practice, rather than specific cases. It was most constructive and contained much of interest to the practitioner.

Gamber outlined the work of the ACD Group under the guidance of "the master" Eliel Saarinen, FAIA, and he paid tribute to many who had faithfully given service. Form applause members seemed to vote "Forever Gamber."

Following the business and election, there was a showing of the sound slide film, "A Scotsman Looks At Modular Coordination," based on a lecture demonstration by Mr. A. Gordon Lorimer, AIA, who has made such valuable contributions to this subject. The Chapter was fortunate in having present Mr. Prentice Bradley, of Boston, Technical Director, Modular Service Association, who answered many questions from the interested audience. Mr. Bradley was introduced by John C. Thornton, Chairman of Study Committee No. 16 on Kitchen Equipment under American Standards Association Project A62 for the Coordination of Dimensions of Building Materials and Equipment. This Commit-

(See CHAPTER—Page 2)



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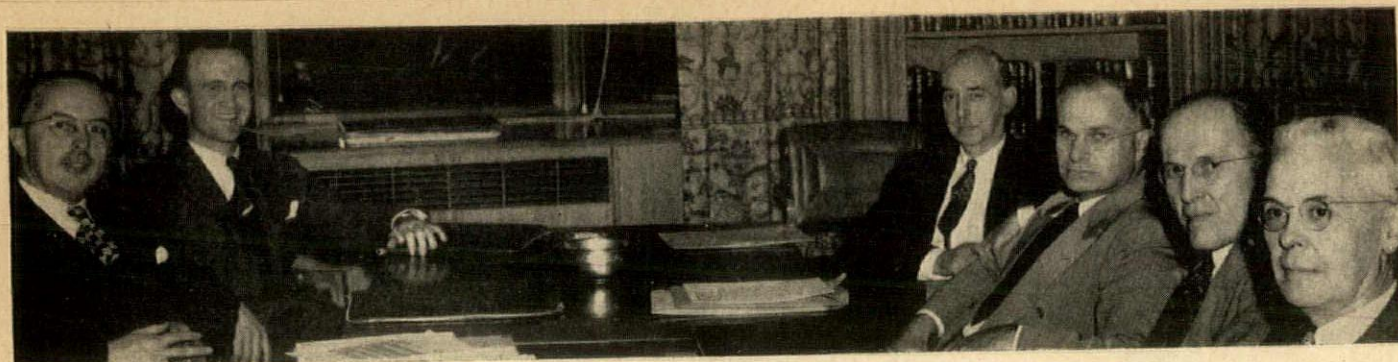
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CHAPTER—(from page 1)

tee had just concluded a series of meetings in Detroit.

Many of the questions indicated a resistance on the part of architects, but Mr. Bradley gave a good account of himself and justified the effort necessary in a changeover for the better.

One hundred and three attended the dinner and many others the showing of the film. It appeared that our appeal regarding the "no shows," following our last meeting had done some good.

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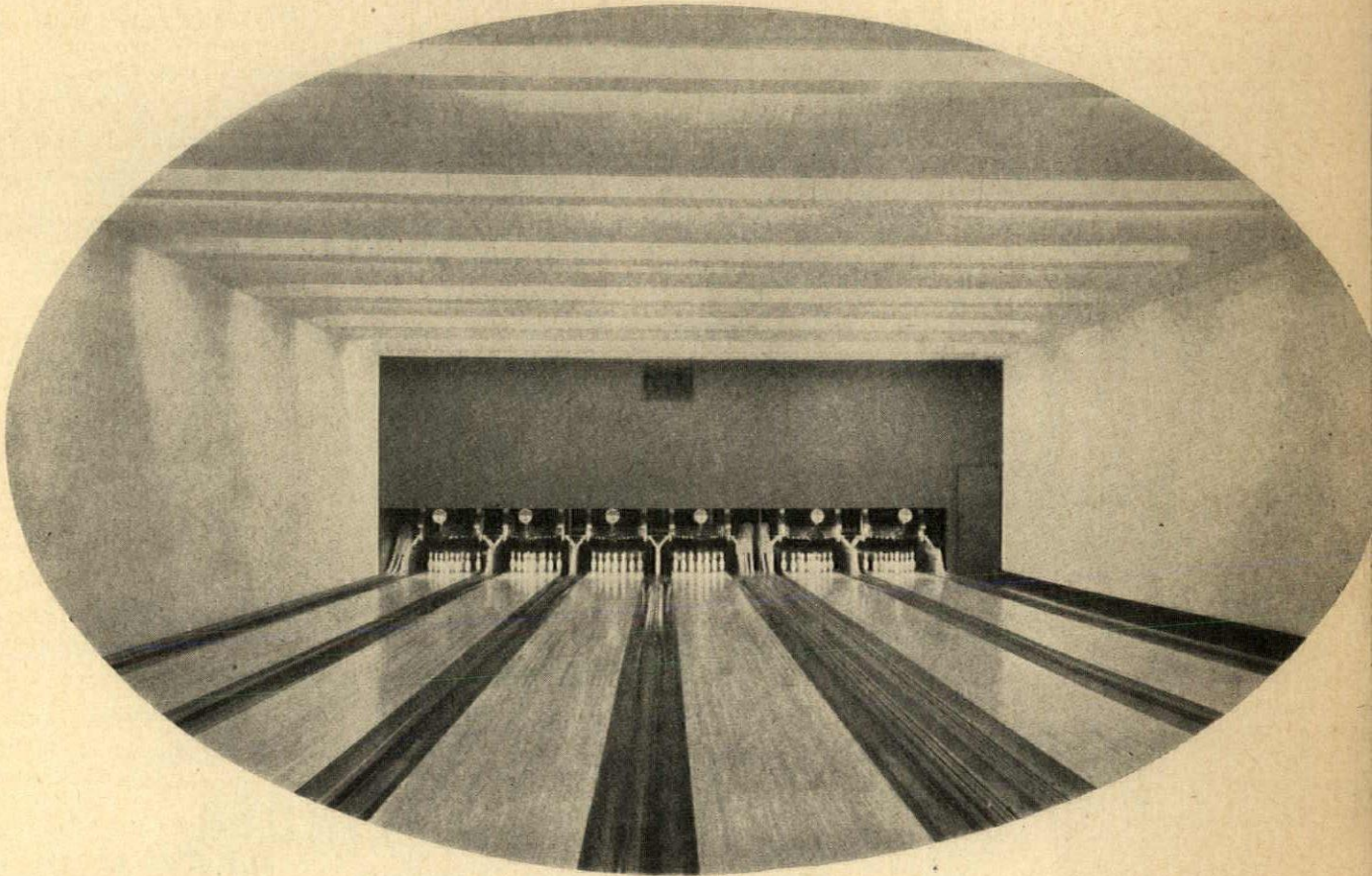
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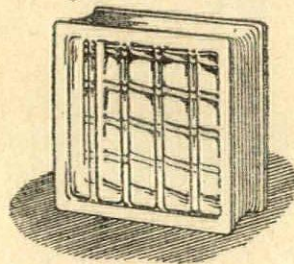
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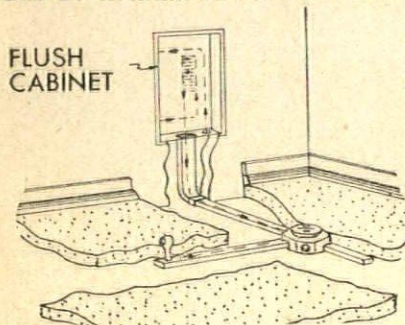
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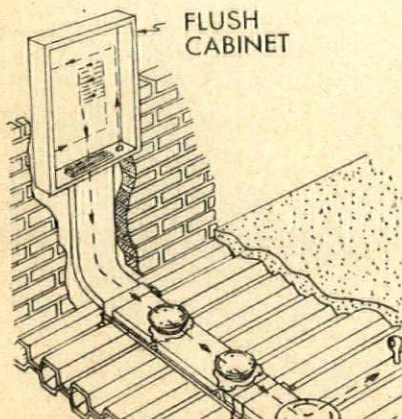
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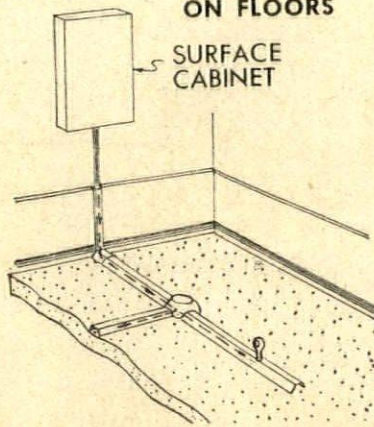
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Volume 20

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, NOVEMBER 12, 1946

No. 46

Langius Named a Member of National Hospital Committee

LANSING ARCHITECT, MEMBER OF GRAND RAPIDS CHAPTER, A. I. A.,
AND HEAD OF STATE'S DIVISION OF BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION
WILL WORK WITH FIVE OTHER SPECIALISTS OF NATIONAL STANDING

Adrian N. Langius, AIA, Director of the Division of Building and Construction of Michigan's State Administrative Board, has been appointed a member of the Technical Advisory Committee to implement the Hospital Survey and Construction Act (S-191), it is announced by Dr. Thomas Parran, United States Surgeon General.

In assisting to direct the National Hospital Program, he will serve with five other specialists of national standing to advise the Government on its program which provides \$3,000,000 for planning and \$75,000,000 a year for five years for construction, on a matching basis.

Langius states that the program will mean more than \$2,000,000 a year to Michigan. He had been asked by the Government to serve as consultant (at \$50 per day and expenses) to set up the program but, because of the vast amount of work he has been doing in connection with the state's postwar building program, he had to decline that offer.

James R. Edmunds, Jr., FAIA, of Baltimore, President of The American Institute of Architects, has been appointed Chairman of the Committee. Others serving with him are Dr. Charles Munger, of St. Luke's Hospital, New York, N. Y.; Dr. Frank F. Tallman, Department of Public Welfare, Columbus, Ohio; Dr. R. D. Thompson, Orlando, Fla., and William A. Riley, AIA, of the firm of Curtin and Riley, Architects, Boston, Mass.

This is a deserved recognition for Langius, a distinguished member of the Grand Rapids Chapter, AIA, and who has served as its president. He is now First Vice-president of the Michigan Society of Architects. His work in his present position at Lansing has attracted nation-wide attention as being the kind of public service that sets an example to other governmental units.

He has done much to encourage the employment of architects in private practice, rather than maintaining governmental bureaus to perform these services. This has reflected great credit on the profession in this state.



ADRIAN N. LANGIUS

Varney Has New Office

F. Orla Varney, AIA, has just opened his office at 1110 Majestic Building, Detroit, where he will continue his architectural practice. He also offers his service in making renderings in black and white and in color.

Your Community Chest

One section of the Professional Division of this year's Community Chest is the Architects, and your committee is happy to report that the firm of Harley, Ellington & Day, Inc., has increased their gift 150 per cent over last year. Clarence E. Day of that firm is chairman of the Architect's Division.

This year's Community Chest Drive is perhaps the most important in the history of Detroit. The eyes of the world are on us to see if the citizens of the community are going to continue to provide for our civic needs by private giving.

Facilities are inadequate as evidenced by the fact that there are 18,000 girls in Metropolitan Detroit who would like to become Girl Scouts but cannot because of the lack of funds to properly support the Girl Scout organization. If there were no other reasons for giving to the Community Chest, this one, to me, seems sufficient. However, there are 50 youth agencies which are supported by your Community Chest, and it is a bargain package as there are 75 other agencies—making a total of 125.

It is the hope of your Community Chest that your contribution this year will be as generous as possible.

The Detroit Campaign ends Wednesday, Nov. 13. If you have not contributed, do so now, through the Bulletin.

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"Detroit Looks At Other Cities"

Because architects make up a large segment of the informed, technically trained people of Detroit, they will recognize that the four subjects announced for discussion at the main library this month—sanitation, smoke abatement, transportation and school design—are basic to any plans for city rehabilitation.

Presented by the Citizens' Housing and Planning Council and the Detroit Public Library, "Detroit Looks At Other Cities" is the title of the series for which dates and speakers are as follows.

I—SANITATION, November 12, Tuesday at 8 p.m.

Speaker: Bleecker Marquette, Executive Secretary, Cincinnati Public Health Federation and Cincinnati Better Housing League.

Chairman: E. A. Tomlinson, Chairman, Public Health Committee, Detroit Board of Commerce.

Detroit Speaker: Edwin H. Pate, Sponsor, Sanitation Project, Civic Affairs Committee, Engineering Society of Detroit.

Co-Sponsors: Civic Affairs Committee, Engineering Society, Civic Pride Association, District and Community Councils, Public Health Committee, Detroit Board of Commerce.

II—SMOKE ABATEMENT, November 19, Tuesday at 8 p.m.

Speaker: Professor Raymond R. Tucker, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.

Chairman: Edward T. Gushee, formerly with Professor Tucker on the St. Louis Smoke Abatement Program.

Detroit Speaker: Willis P. Thomas, Sponsor, Smoke Abatement Project, Civic Affairs Committee, Engineering Society of Detroit.

Co-sponsors: Civic Affairs Committee, Engineering Society of Detroit; Civic Pride Association; Detroit Federation of Women's Clubs.

III—TRANSPORTATION, November 26, Tuesday at 8 p.m.

Speaker: John Howard, Planning Director, Cleveland City Plan Commission.

Chairman: George F. Emery, Planning Director, Detroit City Plan Commission.

Detroit Speaker: Edward D. Connor, Executive Director, Citizens Housing and Planning Council of Detroit.

IV—THE SCHOOL AS NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER, Dec. 3, Tuesday at 8 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Paul J. Misner, Superintendent of Schools, Glencoe, Illinois.

Chairman: William J. Norton, Director, Children's Fund of Michigan.

Detroit Speaker: Dr. Robert G. Foster, Chairman, Better Schools Association.

Co-sponsors: Better Schools Association, Detroit Federation of Teachers, Detroit Teachers' Association, Parent-Teacher Associations of Detroit, Pi Lambda Theta, Women Principals' Club.

The Building Products Institute New Association

Representatives of 200 companies and associations engaged in the manufacture of building materials and equipment have formed a new fact-finding and economic research organization to be known as the Building Products Institute.

Douglas Whitlock, formerly chairman of the Advisory Board of the Producers' Council, was elected chairman of the group. In announcing the formation of the Institute, Whitlock stated that other manufacturers and associations interested in the construction industry will be invited to membership in the organization.

"The purpose of the Institute," Whitlock said, "is to assemble, analyze, and disseminate facts about the production of building materials and equipment and about the progress of construction, including housing.

"The Institute also will analyze and make recommendations with respect to proposed legislation affecting the construction industry and will cooperate with other branches of the industry in preparing recommendations designed to stimulate a maximum volume of construction, to lower the cost of building, and to stabilize construction activity.

"In addition, the Institute will study the effects of existing Federal controls under which the building industry now operates.

"Emphasis will be placed on the collection of facts and figures with which to check and verify statistical information released by various Federal agencies with respect to construction trends and activity.

"The services of nationally known consultants will be retained. Miles L. Colean, former assistant Administrator of the Federal Housing Administration, will be the Institute's economic consultant.

"The offices of the Institute will be located at 1756 K Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C."

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Detroit Chapter, AIA Roster Corrections

Several errors appeared in the list of Chapter members in our Oct. 2 issue. They are as follows:

The last name of Earl W. Pellerin was incorrectly spelled, as was the last name of John C. Thronton.

Van Der Muelen should be John H. (not Forest D.)

The following should be added to the list of Associates:

Theodore Varney Bacon, Jr., 1805 Cherrylawn Ave., Detroit 4.

George J. Bassett, 6394 MacKenzie, Detroit 4.

The name of A. Charles Jones should not appear among associates, as he is correctly listed with corporate members.

Harold Hewitson Gardner is correct (not Huston).

In addition, the following changes of address should be made:

Gustav J. Hanniken is at 8711 Second Blvd., Detroit 2.

Paul Kroske, General Delivery, Detroit.

Alexander MacGregor, 23919 Michigan Ave., Dearborn.

Carl B. Marr, 415 Brainard St., Detroit 1.

Harry M. Newman, 2058 Gladstone Ave., Detroit 6.

Howard L. Preston, Box 31, RFD 3, Pontiac.

Harold M. Shepherd, 1212 Mohawk, Royal Oak.

John H. Van Der Meulen, 198 W. 11th St., Holland.

Forest D. Van Volkenburg, Box 414, Kalamazoo.

William L. Weigle, 10736 Somerset Ave., Detroit 24.

Frank A. White, 173 Kent St., London, Ontario.

W. Ray Winegar, 46 Bloor St., W., Toronto, Ont.

Wallace A. Brandt (associate), 2842 York St., Auburn Heights, Mich.

Robert Serota (associate), 30419 Brush Blvd., Rte. 5, Royal Oak.

Linn, Charles Smith (student associate), 2223 Fernwood, Ann Arbor.

Mary Frances Wilcoxon (student associate), 2545 Rochester Rd., Royal Oak.

Society Board To Meet In Grand Rapids

Roger Allen, President of the Michigan Society of Architects, has announced a meeting of the Society Board at Grand Rapids on Wednesday, Nov. 20. The meeting will be on the fifth floor of the Peninsula Club at Ottawa and Fountain Streets, at 4:30 p.m.

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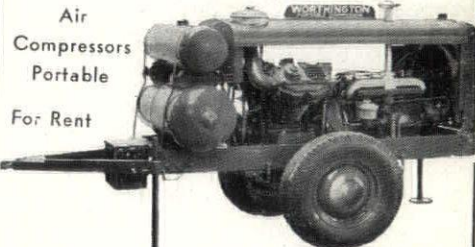
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Architectonics . . Bulletin of the Grand Rapids Chapter, American Institute of Architects

The next meeting of the Chapter will be held on the evening of Monday, Nov. 18, at the Tally-Ho Club in Lansing. This is a very beautiful night club located at 319 East Michigan Avenue. This club was designed by Adrian Nelson Langius, former president of the Chapter, and director of the Division of Buildings and Construction of the State Administrative Board. Right after it opened up, Gus was appointed member of a committee on mental hospitals. Possibly there is no connection. (I didn't think that up; Clarence Rosa did. I now which side my bread used to be uttered on.)

A. N. Langius (and not, for God Sake, LANGUIS, as most of the dim-witted newspaper proofreaders around the state assist on spelling it) this week was appointed member of a six-man committee to fix standards for hospital construction and equipment by Dr. Thomas Parran, surgeon general of the United States. The federal program will provide \$3,000,000 for plans and surveys and \$75,000,000 annually for five years to assist in financing public and non-profit hospitals in the United States. This is a great but well-deserved honor to a Michigan architect and fellow chapter member, and Gus has our heartiest congratulations. The federal government asked him to serve as consultant (at \$50 a day and expenses) to set up the program, but because of the vast amount of work he is handling in connection with the state's post-war building program, Gus had to turn this offer down.

This will give the Detroit Chapter (which of course contains many worthy

but semi-literate members, judging from the way they answer my letters) a rough idea of the caliber of the membership of the Grand Rapids Chapter.

I spent a very pleasant evening in Buffalo, toastmastering the banquet of the convention of Architectural Societies of the State of New York. Jimmy Edmunds, President of the AIA, and Dean Joseph Hudnut of Harvard were the speakers. Our old friend, Matt Del Gaudio, president of the association, was unfortunately ill with pneumonia, his many friends in Michigan will be sorry to hear. I told Dean Hudnut, who recently authored a book on "Modern Sculpture" about the Boston Globe columnist, who observed, "Sculpture is an art form invented by a man who thought the ideal woman should be noiseless." It killed him. Dean Hudnut was born in Big Rapids, and graduated from the University of Michigan.

This will give Harvard a rough idea of the quality of men turned out in the jurisdiction of the Grand Rapids Chapter.

Branson Gamber, one of the members of the Detroit Chapter, who can read and write fluently and tell stories with either hand, was at the Buffalo dinner. He coulda laughed louder, I thought. (Honest, Branse, I'm kidding; nobody could laugh louder than that and keep his bridgework in.)

While I was gone, a lady in Grand Rapids stuck a butcher knife quite far into her husband until he became dead on account of he came home drunk and said something mean to her.

This will give the United States a rough idea of the caliber of the proud, sensitive type of womanhood native to the habitat of the Grand Rapids Chapter.

ROGER ALLEN, Editor.

(When you borrow this, Hughes, kindly do not drop off the credit line as you so frequently and foully do.)

Harley, Ellington & Day Complete New Insurance Company Offices

Extensive alterations of the Federal Life and Casualty Company offices, at 3107 West Grand Blvd., by the architectural firm of Harley, Ellington and Day, are near completion. The remodeling program includes construction of a completely new entrance and main lobby, stairways, and new offices on the second and third floors.

During the war the building was used by the U. S. Army as local headquarters for the Signal Corps. It was returned to the Federal Life and Casualty Company at the beginning of the year, and recently re-occupied. The present remodeling coincides with the company's 40th anniversary year. V. D. Cliff, founder, is president.

Master Plan Ready

The preliminary Master Plan for Detroit, the product of years of effort on the part of the City Plan Commission, is virtually completed, and the full story of what the city of the future may be like is ready.

Architects will have a deep interest in that story—in the overall plan itself and in the vast program of public improvements which it proposes.

The Plan Commission is eager to bring to you full and up-to-date information on these matters and has authorized the staff to fill a limited number of speaking engagements before representative groups.

The attached list of subjects will give you some notion of the range of topics on which we can furnish speakers. Most of our talks we can illustrate, either with maps, charts, and drawings, or with projector slides. Should you desire to take advantage of this service, please address a letter to me or telephone me at CH. 8730. There is, of course, no charge.

TITLES FOR TALKS

1. The Master Plan for Detroit—What it is and what it means to you.
2. Saving Money Through City Planning.
3. Utopia in Three Jumps—What Detroit can be in thirty years.
4. Planning Is for People—What City Planning can do for the individual.
5. Blight Can Ruin You.
6. Protection Through Zoning.
7. How to Get a Playground in Your Neighborhood.
8. How to Get Rid of Unsightly Alleys.
9. The Parking Problem and How to Solve It.
10. The Land Use Plan.
11. More Breathing Space—The importance of housing density standards.
12. Residential Areas Must Be Stabilized.
13. Business Frontage—Where is it now? Where should it be?
14. Industry Must Have Room, Too—Provisions for industry in the Land Use Plan.
15. Why Waste the Detroit River?—The Riverfront Redevelopment Plan.
16. Recreation Pays Off—What an adequate recreation program means to Detroit.
17. Do We Need Culture?—The proposed Cultural Center.
18. Downtown in Ten Minutes—The proposed expressway system.
19. More Community Facilities—(Libraries, schools, etc.)
20. Relocating Our Schools.
21. Detroit's Sixteen Communities.
22. Quiet Living Through Redesign of Neighborhoods.
23. Your Neighborhood.
24. Can We Pay for Major Improvements?
25. We Weren't Always Like This. How Detroit grew.

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ARCHITECTS' CIVIC DESIGN GROUP

By Branson V. Gamber, Chairman

A Report before the Annual Meeting, Detroit Chapter,
The American Institute of Architects

For a period of well over three years the group of architects known as the Architects' Civic Design Group of Metropolitan Detroit has been engaged in a research study of the overall aspects of planning of the metropolitan area of Detroit. This work is proceeding under the sponsorship of the Cranbrook Academy of Art, and with the approval and financial support of the Detroit Chapter, AIA and the Michigan Society of Architects. Mr. Eliel Saarinen has been the consultant to the Group.

This group is engaged in the voluntary preparation of a series of suggestions for the physical redevelopment of the Detroit Metropolitan Area. While each of these suggestions is being developed independently by one member or a team of members of the group, a system of coordination has been worked out whereby the completed individual projects will be knitted together into a homogeneous proposal for the entire Metropolitan Area. This has been done by dividing this area into about twenty smaller areas separated by thoroughfares acting as greenbelts. The coordination of these studies has been undertaken by Mr. Saarinen, who is not only preparing the overall maps and analysis which form the basis of and explain the individual projects, but also is directing the development of these projects to assure their conformity to a general approach common to the entire series. All proposals are being developed for presumable execution by 1990.

Although the work has been carried on as an independent research study, the cooperation and friendly interest of the Director and members of the staff of the City Plan Commission of Detroit has been sought and obtained.

An Executive Committee, composed of six members of the Group formulates the policies, directs the methods of procedure, drafts the material for publicity, arranges meetings and supervises the affairs of the organization.

During the past three years many meetings of the Executive Committee and of the Group have been held. Considerable progress has been made, and the work has advanced well beyond the preliminary stages. Much more has to be done, but additional active members are needed to coordinate the work completely.

With the fall season a new period of activity has resumed. Some members have advanced their studies to the point where they are developing the street pattern of their areas. This stage of the work is most stimulating, and calls into play the planning capabilities of the members in a fas-

cinating manner.

The work is educational and should well repay the members for their unselfish devotion to it. They are contributing of their time and talents without compensation, as a matter of personal interest and as a civic contribution towards the growth and improvement of the Detroit area.

When the work of the group is completed, it is planned to give it general publicity, and place it on exhibition. Many local groups and agencies are anxious to have this material, as they have been aware of the progress of the work, and are interested in it. Considerable time must elapse, and much work must be done to present the finished work to the public in a manner which will reflect all possible credit to our profession.

The results of this study must prove, as is now evident, that the architectural profession can and should assume leadership in this field of better planning for our cities, after qualifying to do so.

Wyatt Defends Housing Program Before Economic Club in Detroit

Wilson W. Wyatt, the Government's Housing Expediter, defended his program before an overflow audience at the Economic Club in the Book-Cadillac Hotel, on Monday noon, October 28, expressing the belief that very shortly the supply of materials will exceed the supply of labor to install them.

Mr. Wyatt related the difficulties that had to be overcome in converting the nation's industry to peace-time housing after the cessation of war production. He stated that before the pipe lines of material supply could be filled roads had to be built and many other steps taken incidental to production. He justified the program by stating that in 1929 production of houses had been 89 per cent higher than before the war. The production of lumber in August, he said, was the highest since 1929.

To the question of what effect the program is having on other types of building, he stated that of necessity the impact must be felt. In spite of this, he said that Detroit's industrial building program had gone ahead more than ever before.

According to the best estimates, the audience was about 90 per cent opposed to the program, but Mr. Wyatt held his own in answering all questions.

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Date of Chapter Meeting Changed

The next meeting of the Detroit Chapter, AIA, will be on the evening of Wednesday, Nov. 27. Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. in the Rackham Building. The program will be announced in the near future. In the schedule of Chapter meetings published earlier, this date was given as November 20, but it has been necessary to postpone it for one week. Cards for reservations will be sent in due time, but in the meantime please mark your calendar for this meeting.

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And our character and mood reflects;
If one is friendly, kindly and true,
Life mirrors back with friendliness too;
A happy smile and a kindly greeting,
A warm handclasp 'tween friends when*

*meeting,
Means so much as we go our way,
And makes Life worth while every day;
A smile makes everything seem brighter,
And draws the bonds of friendship a little*

*tighter;
Try to whistle when you feel blue,
And note the change which comes over*

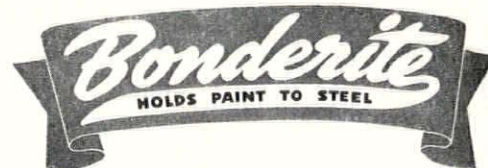
*you;
When, driving your car, you're provoked
to anger*

*By some reckless careless stranger;
Don't open your window and at him shout,
Give him the benefit of doubt;
Perhaps he's filled with care and worry,
Perhaps that's why he's in a hurry;
He's the man who deserves your pity,
And there are many of them in your city;
Try to feel friendly as you drive along,
Try to whistle or sing a song;
A kindly feeling in your heart,
Grows and becomes a counterpart:
And, if you keep within your mind
The thought of trying to be kind;
You'll find it really worth the while,
And Life will Mirror back your smile.*

—Bill Cory.

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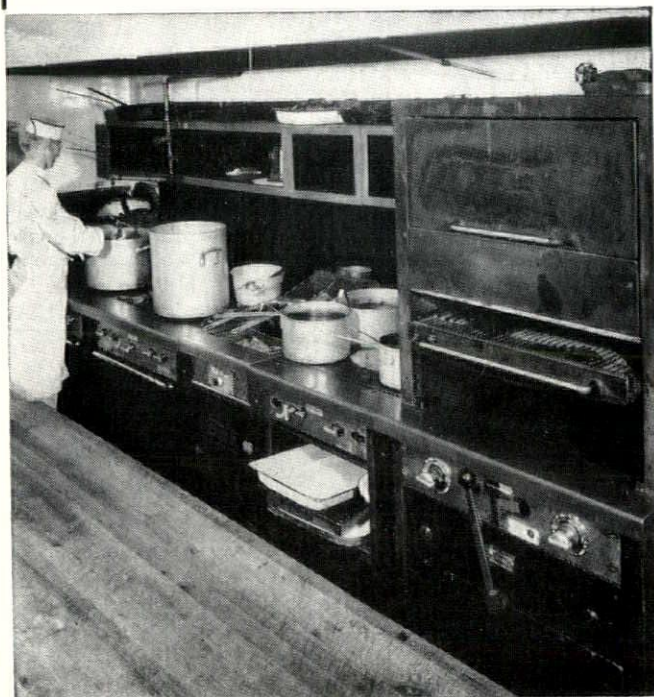


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No. 47

PLANNING SAFETY INTO BUILDINGS

*Paper read before the Engineers' Club of Birmingham, Ala., October 14, 1946,
at request of the Jefferson County Safety Council*

By DR. TURPIN C. BANNISTER

Dean, School of Architecture and the Arts, Alabama Polytechnic Institute.

The essentials of good building have never been stated more aptly than by Marcus Vitruvius Pollio, a Roman architect of the first century of our era. A building, he said, should have the qualities of **utilitas, firmitas, and venustas**. Today, if we translate and interpret these terms as "usefulness," "safety," and "beauty," we have criteria acknowledged by all progressive architects as fundamental to modern building problems.

Let us not dwell on the interminable controversy of what constitutes a beautiful building; suffice it to say that current architectural doctrine holds that we can find unforeseen and valid delights for our senses if we accept and exploit the potentialities inherent in new building types, new materials, and new structural systems. The forms and effects thus created can be in every way as appealing and as satisfying as those characterizing buildings that were modern in some great period centuries ago. This new beauty is not a matter of a superficial veneer of historic ornament. It arises from skillful composition of the elements demanded for use and structure. Today no building can qualify for architectural excellence unless it solves harmoniously the problems of convenience and safety.

Of course these problems are not new. Two thousand years before Christ, Hammurabi's famous code sought to protect innocent buyers of houses from the shyster practices of jerrybuilders. The king decreed that if a house fell and killed the

son of the owner, then in retribution the son of the builder must be sacrificed. In ancient Rome ten-story lower-class tenements built of mud brick collapsed regularly until the emperor Augustus limited heights and required owners to build of more substantial materials. The Great Fire of London in 1666 brought forth a rash of structural regulations that became the starting point for all modern codes.

To meet such problems ancient architects and builders worked miracles of intuitive design. After the Roman Pantheon had twice been destroyed by fire, Hadrian rebuilt it of incombustible materials, concrete in its 142-foot-diameter dome, and bronze plate trusses for the portice roof. In France the master masons of thirteenth-century Gothic cathedrals feared that foundation settlement and mortar shrinkage would disrupt the equilibrium of their soaring fireproof

vaults. In spite of elaborate external buttressing, they therefore took the added precaution of inserting at several levels strong wrought-iron link chains to reinforce the limestone walls. These men brought to bear on structural problems a considerable body of technical knowledge, but it was knowledge based on inherited rules of thumb derived by trial and error. Medieval chronicles are replete with leaning towers, falling vaults, burning roofs, and rapid decay.

With the rise of modern science since the Renaissance, architects and engineers have acquired new methods that release them from arbitrary and intuitive design. For the calculation of framed structures, the application of mathematics and the physical sciences has provided in analytical mechanics a key that would seem sheer magic to a medieval mason. Be-

See SAFETY—Page 2

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Safety—

(Continued from Page 1)

tween Leonardo's tentative diagram of the force polygon and the plotting of stress distributions by photo-elasticity lies a revolution basic to modern architecture as well as engineering.

The impact of technology and the scientific method has affected no less the planning of buildings for use. We must not suppose of course that the architects who laid out the complex facilities of the Roman imperial baths, or the ramified accommodations of vast medieval monasteries, or the urbanely comfortable town houses of Georgian London were unconcerned with utility or comfort. But their plans, whether intimate or grand in scale, had the same intuitive quality that limited their structural solutions.

Modern architects, however, have a surer and more systematic approach to the planning of buildings, thanks to principles of efficiency first developed in the cotton mills of Great Britain and later refined and extended in American factories. With the application of these principles to the planning of modern buildings, the provision and arrangement of usable space has become more clearly an applied science than ever before. It may be that the demands of irrational clients can never be wholly solved by exact procedures, but the process of statistical analysis, integration, comparison, and observation is as revolutionary for assurance of functional utility as was the parallel transformation in structural design.

Thus there has emerged, slowly but surely, a body of technical knowledge, characteristic and unique of our own time, that can be called building science. Like many technicians, architects have been so emersed in special areas of the development, and have become so involved in the dynamic process itself, that they have as a group tended to neglect their obligation to organize and codify the knowledge already gathered. They have forgotten the great tradition of structural leadership erected by the da Vincis, Blondels, Wrens, Pattes, Ronde-

lets, and Walters, who not only built but at the same time carried through invaluable fundamental investigations. Too often in recent decades we have been content to merely exploit the discoveries and inventions of others, to adopt unritically the pseudo-scientific propaganda of commercial entrepreneurs, and to gloss over deficiencies with fancy gadgets. There are indications, however, that we are beginning to appreciate the technical programs carried on by the leading engineering societies. Frankly, we admire and respect the excellent procedures these societies have worked out to encourage investigation, research, and the dissemination of findings. The American Institute of Architects has recently taken steps to promote such a program in the building field, and I believe that at long last we are moving toward a goal truly worthy of a great professional society.

It is appropriate to point out in passing that schools of architecture across the country can make important contributions to such a program. At Auburn, for example, the School of Architecture and the Arts already has several projects under way or being considered that may prove of some value for the practitioners of our state and region. We have strong hope that as the present unprecedented teaching emergency subsidies we can carry forward a program of research that will make Auburn an important national center of building science. We have an unusually comprehensive nucleus that includes not only architecture with design and structural options, but also interior design, landscape architecture, and the fine and applied arts. I am particularly gratified too that we enjoy the most cordial relations with our outstanding School of Engineering. Architects and engineers have much in common, but too often they have magnified their differences. That is a situation we at Auburn have every intention of escaping. It is a real pleasure to take this occasion to thank Dean Hannum for his generous and continuing expressions of good will and interest.

(Continued on Page 3)

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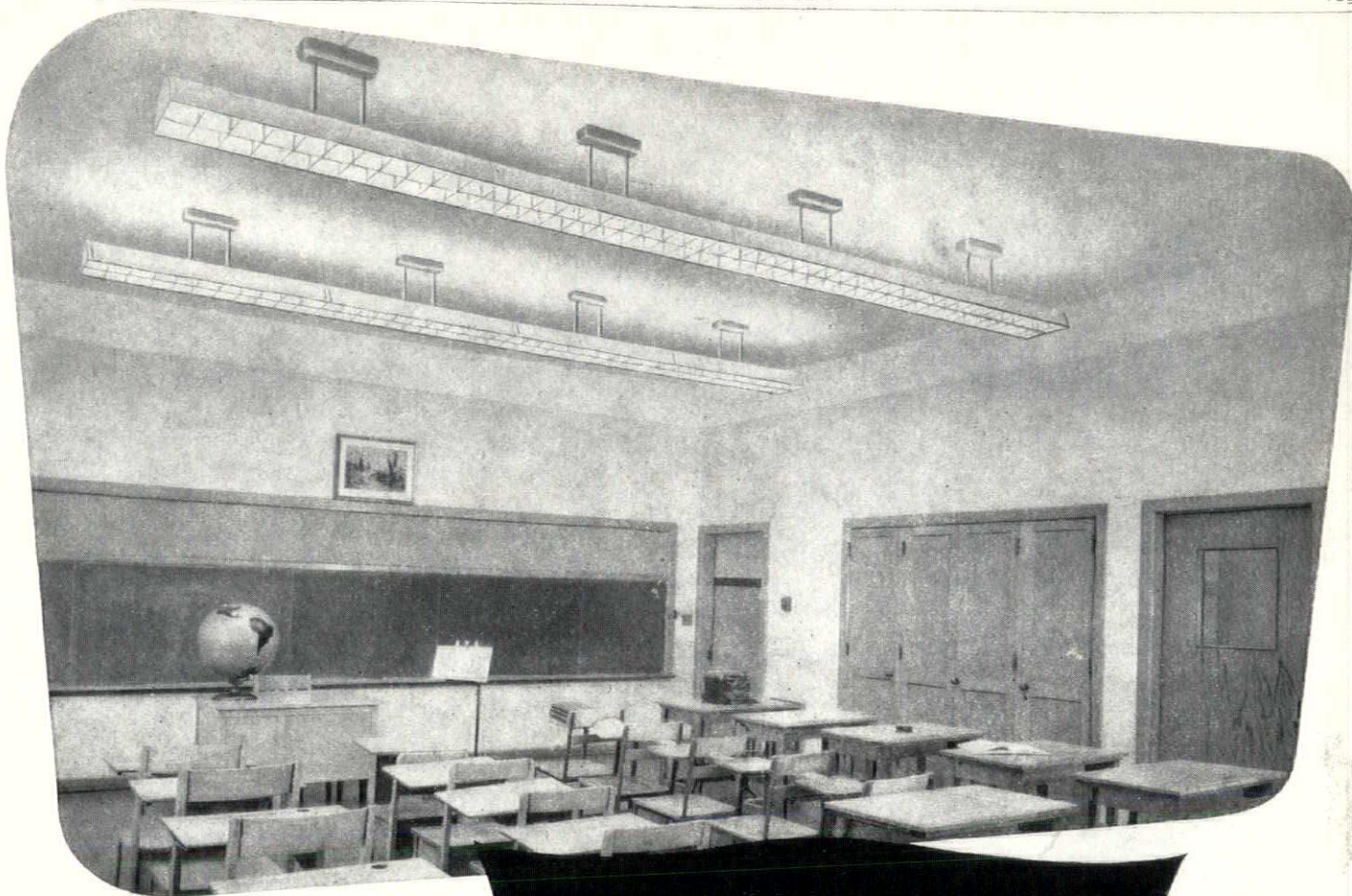
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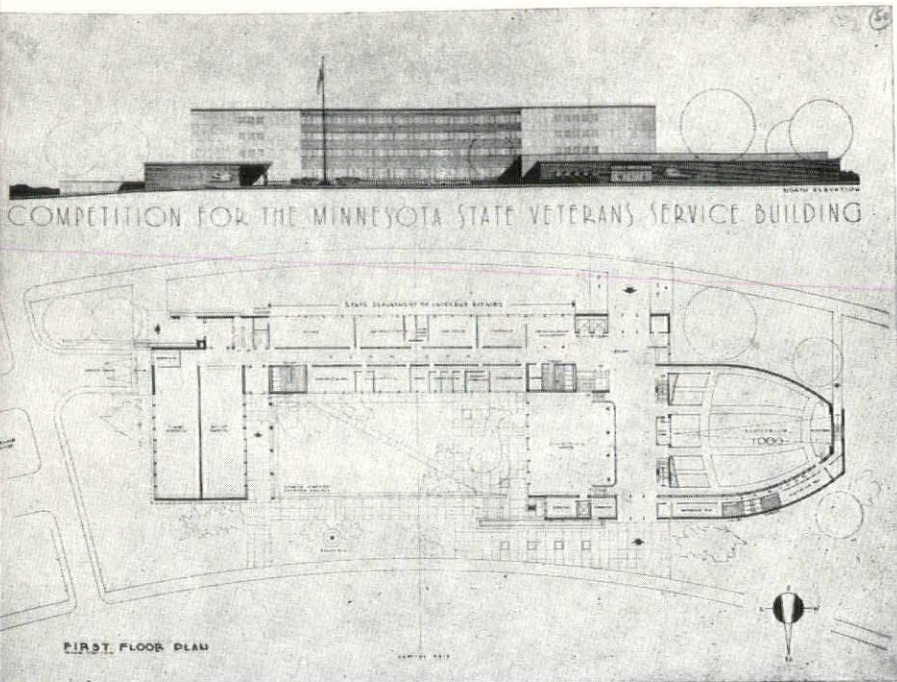
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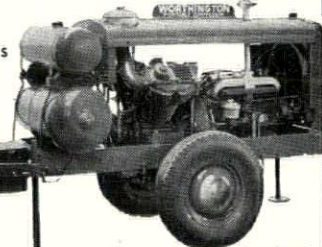
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Pilafian is Competition Winner

Suren Pilafian, AIA, of Detroit was winner of second prize of \$2,500 in the recent competition for the design of a State Veterans Service Building and War Memorial to be built adjoining the State Capitol in St. Paul, Minn. First prize of \$5,000 was won by 31-year-old W. Brooks Cavin, Jr., of Washington, D. C., an employee in the office of Louis Justement, FAIA. The jury consisted of Leon Arnal, AIA, of Minneapolis, Minn.; Harvey Wiley Cornett, FAIA, of New York, and John W. Root, FAIA, of Chicago.

In 1942 Pilafian won first prize in the Wayne University Competition. He practices at 112 Madison Ave., Detroit, where he has distinguished himself as an architect and planner.

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To show you that his cooperation has far exceeded mere academic courtesies, I can cite his suggestion two years ago that the Light Construction Option, then given in the Department of Civil Engineering, could be handled more appropriately and efficiently as a curriculum in the Department of Architecture. The transfer was made and we now have eighty students in our four-year degree course in Building Construction. These students look forward to worthwhile careers in contracting, building materials production and distribution, and the various types of inspection services demanded by building operations. The addition of this type of course has rounded out our program so that it encompasses the major segments of the whole building industry.

During the past century and a half building techniques have undergone revolutionary changes. The development of new planning methods, new materials, new structural systems, new equipment, and new erection procedures has made it possible to build more efficient and comfortable buildings more expeditiously. One typical concern has been to make buildings less hazardous to use and more resistant to destruction. This was the compelling motive for those architects and engineers who evolved modern principles of fire loss prevention. Sentiments of humanitarianism and social efficiency have fostered considerable progress in refining buildings until occupants need no longer be subjected to obvious hazards to life and limb. Too often this progress has been delayed until some catastrophe forced popular opinion to demand and accept action. It took the Richmond, Virginia, theater fire of 1811 with a large casualty list including the governor to obtain an ordinance stipulating that exit doors must open outward. Today we still usually have to learn the hard way.

Even when we admit the advisability of some precaution we allow inertia to rob us of elementary safeguards. We succumb to the philosophy of the backwoods farmer who objected to hearing how he might improve his crop because he already knew much better methods than he practiced. When individual initiative fails, we enact comprehensive codes and then spend endless energy to circumvent their provisions. Truly we know much better standards than we employ.

Great as has been the progress made in planning our buildings for safety we are constantly confronted with the fact that preventable losses continue at an appalling rate. The statistics amassed by the National Safety Council do not make comfortable reading. They suggest, but un-

fortunately do not fully reveal, what prodigious losses result from buildings poorly planned and built. Despite voluminous codes, standards, and reports, the data fundamental to safe building is haphazard and tentative. Surely here is a field of investigation that can demand the best brains of architects, engineers, building officials, and such admirable agencies as your Council. Once we have agreed among ourselves as to practicable standards, we ought not to rest without a long campaign to indoctrinate every owner, designer, and builder with the necessity of applying those standards.

Consider, for example, the toll of accidents in this country. In 1945 a total of 96,000 Americans met accidental death. Of these, 28,600, or almost 30%, involved private motor vehicles. In the light of this fact, it has required considerable courage to brave the terror of a trip from Auburn to Birmingham. But 33,500 persons—5% more than were killed by motor cars—met accidental death in the presumed security of their own homes. Therefore, I came to your meeting. It was safer on the road than at home. Add to these deaths the 5,000,000 non-fatal home accidents that cost our people about \$600,000,000 in wages, medical expense, and insurance. To this sum we must further add losses due to 285,000 dwelling fires that in 1944 robbed us of \$104,000,000. Despite our vast human and material wealth, these losses are a staggering drain upon our resources that we can ill afford.

It is difficult to ascertain what portion of these losses were directly attributable to mechanical hazards that could have been eliminated by better design and construction. Statistical surveys have revealed that almost 23% of home accidents involve stairs, either inside or outside the house; 18% happen in the kitchen; 8½% in the living room; over 7% on porches.

(Concluded next week)

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**Producers Discuss
Modular Coordination**

Producers' Council of Michigan held its second meeting of the current season at a luncheon at the Wardell-Sheraton in Detroit on Nov. 12. Joe Busse, of Libbey-Owen-Ford's Detroit office, Council President, presided.

He called upon Walter Torbett, who introduced Mr. W. C. Randall, chief engineer of the Detroit Steel Products Company, who spoke on Modular Coordination, illustrating his talk with exhibits and slides. Mr. Randall was recently cited by James R. Edmunds, Jr., FAIA, President of The American Institute of Architects, for his outstanding contributions to the progress of Modular Coordination, as chairman of the Metal Window Division of project A62.

The speaker stated that there had long been standardization in the building industry but that there had not been coordination.

Busse stated that the Producers' Council had in recent years engaged in a certain amount of what might be termed lobbying, that this was not to their liking, but had been in self-defense. Now that the situation is clearing, he foresees for the future a reconversion to the Council's normal purposes, those of educational matters, problems of increasing production, improving and streamlining distribution, and developing means of lowering costs.

Paul Marshall received credit for doing a good job on the program committee, in assuring a good attendance of both producers and architects.

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**Michigan To Have
ASSE Chapter**

A Michigan Chapter of the American Society of Sanitary Engineering is in prospect, as the result of a meeting held in Detroit on November 12. In attendance at the meeting were Leo N. Newman, President of the Society's Ohio Chapter, and Chairman of its national Committee on Membership; Sanford Schwartz, President of Allied Advertising Agency, of Cleveland, Director of Publicity for the Society; Joseph Hirshstein, Co-chairman of the Society's Polio Committee; L. Glenn Shields, Chief of the Division of Plumbing, Detroit Department of Buildings and Safety Engineering, and a Vice-president of the national Society; Elmo G. Liddle, Mr. Shield's Sr. Assistant Sanitary Engineer; Dewey Bull, Executive Secretary of the Detroit Master Plumbers Association; A. M. Mathies, Chief Engineer, Josam Manufacturing Company, of Cleveland; Talmage C. Hughes, Detroit architect, and William W. Schumacher, of National Architect and Weekly Bulletin.

The American Society of Sanitary Engineers was founded in 1906 to improve the standards of plumbing installations and all types of plumbing materials, including fixtures, to improve plumbing codes and their enforcement; all of which mean improvement of health through improvement of sanitation.

One of the Society's activities is its Polio Committee, which through donations has established foundations at universities for research on this subject, and which through publicity and educational campaigns has emphasized the importance of the movement and the connection it has with sanitation.

The Society publishes an Annual Report which contains findings on the subject of health and sanitation, with particular reference to the plumbing industry.

It is expected that an organizational meeting will be held in Detroit in December and in January an open meeting to include architects and others interested at which speakers of national standing will appear.

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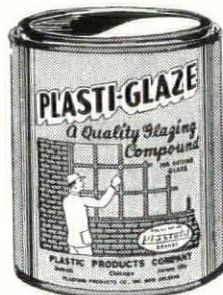
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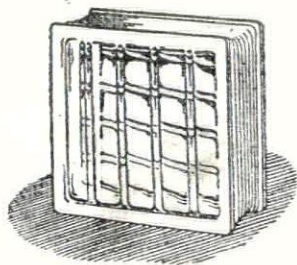


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DETROIT, MICHIGAN, NOVEMBER 26, 1946

No. 48

LIVING MEMORIALS FAVORED IN POLL

Russell Sage Foundation Reports on 500 Towns and Cities

The men who fought in World War II probably will be honored in most communities not with monuments but with "living memorials"—something the community can use—James Dahir concludes from a study of published material on the subject. His report, released by Russell Sage Foundation, calls attention to a recent poll of 500 U. S. towns and cities on their plans for war memorials; this and Canadian expressions of opinion indicate "strong popular feeling" in favor of living memorials. The report quotes a published letter from an American sergeant overseas who felt that any man in the service would rather see his name inscribed over "one small swing" in a playground than on "all the marble-columned temples" in the world.

A logical form for the living memorial, Mr. Dahir finds, is the community center, defined as "a community building or buildings planned and equipped to serve the leisure-time needs of a particular neighborhood," or in human terms as "the organization of the residents of the neighborhood, democratically, for the purpose of . . . promoting the community interest." The purpose is described as twofold: to enrich the lives of the community's members, and to revitalize our democracy "in its ancient home, the neighborhood," by deepening the individual's understanding of his responsibilities as a citizen.

It is through wise and enjoyable use of leisure, according to authorities cited in this study, that man can develop his full personality. The center can offer many things—club rooms, a workshop for hobbyists, an auditorium and stage for music-lovers and amateur actors, a gymnasium, perhaps a pool or an outdoor ball field—which the average person cannot afford for himself, but which the community group, in the opinion of many, can easily afford. And as the home of local clubs, athletic teams, and hobby groups, the center becomes "the living-room of the community," humming with wholesome social activity; not least among its functions is to rescue people from the all-too-common curse of loneliness.

Thus the community center is an investment in happiness and health. The study notes that in Great Britain, when war workers were moved to new localities, the Ministries of Labour, Works, and Supplies provided centers "catering to every social need," and found that production soared. The need for investments in health is shown by figures from Selective Service, which rejected 4,500,000 men because of physical or psychoneurotic conditions, and among those accepted found only 5 per cent in top condition.

Perhaps the most important function of the center, however, is as a forum and a "focus of local patriotism." Its meeting rooms make possible a modern form of the old town hall or hot-stove league, in which public questions—local, national, and international—are debated. And community services are stimulated; "the war years accustomed us to doing things together, and citizen groups, formed to serve the needs of war, are in many places determined to serve the needs of peace also." Some existing centers house co-operatives and credit unions, for example.

Experience here and in Canada and England indicates that the center idea succeeds with adults only when there is fully democratic local control. This may work out through a governmental agency assuming responsibility for the property, or the center may share a building with other public services; for example, Locust Valley, N. Y., houses its law-enforcement, welfare, and health offices in

the center, and in many communities the center uses a school building or forms a unit with the school. The enterprise may be supported with public funds, as in England and in a growing number of American towns, although this does not mean that the members should not contribute according to their means. But authorities on the subject agree that the planning and execution of the center's program should be the province of a voluntary community association of individuals and local organizations.

Patterns of community center activities vary widely, says the report; facilities range from bowling alleys to day nurseries. "Ideally" the center includes a library. Many centers house clinics. Recalling that 40,000,000 Americans live in localities where health services are inadequate or nonexistent, Mr. Dahir quotes an expert in the field of public health, who believes that "medical and psychiatric care need be limited in community centers only by the wishes of the community and the co-operation of the medical profession."

Though perhaps the greatest need for community centers is in new housing areas—their value in such areas, says Mr. Dahir, is no longer considered a subject for argument—their general value is indicated by the fact that in England they are now part of the educational service of the nation.

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PLANNING SAFETY INTO BUILDINGS

By DR. TURPIN C. BANNISTER

(Continued from last issue)

Another survey shows that falls comprise 63% of home accidents, many involving ladders, but 9% due to slippery surfaces and floor coverings. 10% derive from the use of basic household equipment. No doubt more careful design and construction of homes with an eye to minimizing hazards would bring substantial reductions in accident rates.

Dwellings are but one type of structure demanded by the multifarious activities of men. In offices, factories, mills, theaters, churches, hotels, stores, schools, hospitals, and many other types of buildings, similar defects of plan and construction add their toll of human and economic sacrifices. Fire alone in 1945 cost this nation \$484,000,000, a situation that has been characterized by responsible officials as "a national scandal." If the upsurging trend of fires continues at the present rate, the annual loss in 1953 will be about \$1 billion.

Indignation for such waste is easy, but to obtain the comprehensive application of a practical program of prevention is another matter. That such a program could bring striking reduction of this frightful waste is suggested by the success with which industry has cut its annual accident and fire losses. But the situation in industry differs markedly from the heterogeneous conditions underlying general building use. Management has both a humanitarian and an economic interest in saving the lives and limbs of its labor force. The principle of management's responsibility for employee safety and compensation is almost universally recognized. The specific hazards of specific plants can be studied statistically and precautionary programs developed by men trained in safety work can be promulgated and supervised in shop and yard.

Not so in the planning and use of ordinary buildings. Here the unit of control is on a much smaller scale and consequently the acceptance of responsibility for precaution rarely goes beyond the minimum necessity of public liability. The exigencies of small ownership to exclude extra charges for safety. The small proprietor always thinks the accident will happen elsewhere than on his premises.

Indifference, ignorance, cupidity, and willful negligence are difficult to convert or counteract. It requires a disaster like the 492 deaths suffered in the burning of Boston's Coconut Grove to shake individual proprietors and the community at large out of their self-confident lethargy and apply simple common sense to building use.

There are few mechanical hazards in buildings that cannot be eliminated by the application of foresight, but unfortunately their installation requires trained designers and some additional expenditure. As long as we leave it to the private conscience of the individual proprietor, competition and economy will tend to preclude the incorporation of precautionary measures. This is the real reason that has forced progressive communities to adopt regulatory codes for the protection of public safety. The formulation of the technical standards embodied in these codes requires a mastery of theoretical principles, long experience in applying principle to practice, a thorough knowledge of current techniques and research, and a degree of scientific and economic judgment given to few men. It is not strange, therefore, that codes written by well-intentioned local authorities often set up standards that are obsolete and misguided, or that differ so widely among themselves as to be simply ludicrous. Then, too, a code once established acquires a de facto static sanctity wholly inconsistent with the dynamic evolution of the activity it seeks to regulate. The rapid introduction of new materials and new structural assemblies, as well as the ceaseless refinement of former practice, are healthy evidence of progress, but the code based on the principle of static specification frustrates such improvements. If we are to cut the time-lag between invention and application, we must secure wider acceptance of codes based on the principle of performance standards.

New techniques, however, are often fraught with new and unforeseen dangers. To realize this one need only recall the numerous, rapidly spreading fires that occurred when early installations of air conditioning ductwork cancelled carefully

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A62 Guide

The new A62 GUIDE FOR MODULAR COORDINATION being published by Modular Service Association, 110 Arlington Street, Boston 16, Mass., will provide a medium of helpful assistance to architects and others interested in the application of the principles of Modular Coordination. The book which sells for ten dollars is largely the work of Mr. Prentice Bradley, Technical Director of Modular Service Association. It contains 290 pages, 314 illustrations, 9"x12". Accurate scale drawings and a minimum of text are used to explain the broad principles of modular coordination, their connection with the various stages of the architect's work, and the application to different classes of building construction. These drawings show not only modular details approved by project committees, but also details which illustrate methods employed in meeting practical job conditions.

As a concrete example of the application of these principles and products, the final chapter contains photographs and some of the architect's drawings for a New York Health Center. Throughout the Guide text and drawings are carefully arranged for easy reference.

Mr. Prentice Bradley was recently a guest speaker at the Annual Meeting of the Detroit Chapter, A. I. A.

What Goes On Here

You should revere the word "Commerce." It signifies the difference between success and failure. Commerce means butter on your mashed potatoes—syrup on your flapjacks. "Commerce" is the most important word on the masthead of this organization—and if Detroit isn't a commercial success, we're misunderstood. Our town isn't pretty. Our aesthetic life is undernourished. We need more homes, paint, trees, music, art, joy, recreation, religion. Such important civic ingredients are present jobs for other groups who haven't the word "Commerce" emblazoned upon their letterheads.—The DETROITER, Publication of The Detroit Board of Commerce.

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building technology needs to look at its tasks with a new prospective, and check its procedures against the methods of other more progressive industries.

Any prolonged consideration of present-day building returns again and again to the absolute necessity of research and development. We talk of the American building industry, its prodigious size second only to agriculture, its extraordinary ramifications, and the great miracles of construction it has produced. We forget that it is the most chaotic and uncoordinated leviathan that has ever been dignified by the name "industry." It has been more accurately described as a "heterogeneous agglomeration of more or less related industries." Yet today we face at least a decade of the most furious construction the world has ever seen. There is no category of building type in which supply nearly meets demand. Is our so-called industry ready for the task?

Here in America, even during the heyday of the middle twenties, our leadership in building inventiveness was not impressive. The most important advances in new structural systems—such as thin-shell concrete, lamella roofs, and timber ring connectors—were conceived and worked out in a prostrated Germany. For technical investigation we had nothing to compare with the British Building Experiment Station, whose fundamental reports are still almost unknown here. We have been forced to depend for the most part on reports of industrial laboratories that for all their industry and skill necessarily cannot give impartial judgments.

If we are to meet the challenge of the next decade and the next, if we are to fulfill the vision of an architecture adapted to and expressive of American stan-

dards of usefulness, stability, and beauty, if we are to make our buildings safer and more healthful, and if we are to satisfy the building needs of an ever widening portion of our democracy, we must join our forces, pool our energies, and attack with resolution a myriad of unsolved, tantalizing problems. It will be an effort so compelling and so vast that we will have no time for petty jealousies between allied professions. The reward can be the highest standard of architectural equipment any society has ever known, and a heritage for our successors that will be a testament of our skill, our vision, and our dynamic faith in our own way of life.

Architect Urges Housing Survey

Black to Advise Study by State to Guide Planning

A state-financed scientific housing survey to pave the way for an "intelligent" state housing policy were proposed Wednesday by Kenneth C. Black, Lansing architect and chairman of the housing section of the Michigan planning commission.

Black said he would urge the commission to request the next governor to include an appropriation in the 1947-48 budget to finance local housing surveys, possibly on a matching basis.

"It is apparent," Black said, "that new low rent housing, which is sought by 40 percent of the veterans needing housing, cannot be produced in the face of present high building costs without some form of subsidy."

Cites N. Y. Program

"Uninformed people still regard subsidized housing as one of the most radical of the new deal experiments, yet New York state, under a Republican governor, is spending three times as much for this purpose within its borders as is the federal government."

Asserting congress probably will provide federal housing subsidies at its next session, Black said Michigan must be ready with an intelligent program or it will "waste many millions of dollars on ill-conceived projects."

EMIL G. ZILMER, AIA is architect for a new Sears, Roebuck & Co. building on W. Western Ave., in Grand Rapids. The three-story structure will have a frontage of 113 feet and will be 114 feet in depth.

SCARAB FRATERNITY (national professional architectural fraternity) is holding its annual convention at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, on November 24, 25, and 26.

Refresher Courses Again

It has been decided to repeat the Refresher Courses sponsored by the Affiliate Council in conjunction with the Engineering Society of Detroit for those desiring to take the state examination for registration as professional engineers or architects.

The course will be announced in the December issue of **THE FOUNDATION**, and we suggest that you convey the same information to your own membership as promptly as possible so that those interested may take advantage of the opportunity.

These courses will be given on Saturdays as before and will start the first week in January and end the last Saturday in April.

Attendance will be limited strictly to members of the E.S.D. and its Affiliate Societies. A tuition fee of \$25.00, for those taking the entire course, and \$15.00 for those taking only one part of the engineering work, has been set.

The work for engineers will be divided into Part I, covering engineering fundamentals, and Part II, covering engineering law ethics, report writing and general business practice. The work for architects is divided into five parts, covering the sections into which the examination is divided.

In order to be eligible to take the entire state examination, an applicant must have had at least four years experience following graduation or at least eight years experience in the absence of a degree. Only Part I of the state examination, covering fundamentals for engineers or structural design for architects, can be taken by persons not having the required experience stated above.

Those interested in taking the course should apply at the E.S.D. office for registration blanks after December 1.

All applicants who are accepted for the course will be called in for registration and assignment to sections shortly before the beginning of the work.

In giving publicity to these courses, we request that you call particular attention to the following.

It must be borne in mind that this Refresher Course is merely an opportunity to reinforce and refresh previous educational backgrounds. All applicants must be prepared to devote several hours per week to individual study outside of attendance at the class sessions, to obtain significant benefit from this course.

Very truly yours,

P. J. BRYANT,
Assistant Managing Secretary.

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disposed fire barriers. Likewise no one suspected that the use of artificial leather upholstery would introduce during fires a poison gas barrage that would do justice to a chemical warfare corps. No static specification code can possibly protect us from such hazards, but a performance code can at least lay down general conditions that will remain valid despite changing practice.

Within the past decade there has appeared a notable trend seeking to formulate building codes on a state, regional, and even national basis. To the extent that such codes make available the considered judgment and knowledge of the best technicians available, these codes should prove to be a notable improvement. Their adoption for wide geographical areas will assist immeasurably those whose practice is not confined to one small community. To the extent that these codes adopt performances as the criterion for acceptance of specific building elements, they will prevent the perpetuation of obsolete and inflexible requirements and eliminate the stranglehold imposed by vested interests that seek to maintain regulations favorable only to their own wares. This trend should be watched with great interest.

Existing codes in force tend to operate only for certain types of building problems. They are concerned primarily with structural safety, protection from the onslaughts of fire, the provision of safe exits, and the elimination of hazards consequent to building equipment. Occasionally separate codes deal with the problems of occupancy, sanitation, and daylighting. In time the results of special investigation may make it feasible to include other standards for the safety and welfare of occupants that today depend solely on the ingenuity of the individual architect and the enlightenment of a particular owner.

No code, however progressive it may be, can operate of itself. Nor does a body of voluntary standards proceed of its own volition. They are but instruments in the employ of skilled technical personnel. In order for a code to increase the safety and comfort of a community's buildings, it must be administered by experienced and fearless officials who understand its intentions. Then, too, a code is simply permissive. No building can ever be designed from a manual. To realize the full implications of a code its provisions must be incorporated in the plans of a specific building by a skillful architect. That this is not special pleading to obtain a tight monopoly for a particular profession, we may bring evidence of danger to public safety by citing a moving picture theater erected a year ago in this state without benefit of architect or engineer that

collapsed completely just one hour before the opening show! Only sheer luck saved a large audience from destruction. To the untrained craftsman, nothing seems easier than to hammer together a roof truss, but his intuition is a dangerous basis for safety. There was, for example, the Scottish builder who without supervision constructed a theater truss upside down and then wondered why the roof sagged!

Several cities have recognized that it is difficult, if not impossible, for their building officials to eliminate all code violations from plans submitted for approval or to prevent all violations during construction. They are requiring, therefore, that the architect and builder certify that the building so complies. In many communities suffering under inconsistent and purposefully contradictory codes, this new requirement amounts to daring the architect and builder to try to satisfy an arbitrary official. But if the code is a clean-cut document, and is consistently interpreted, this demand for certification probably does not impose an inequitable burden. It may be, however, that added responsibility and liability will require some measure of added compensation.

I have felt it unnecessary here to recapitulate a long list of rules by which specific building hazards may be countered. Some excellent publications are available detailing such precautions. One of the best is "How to Danger-Proof Your Home-to-be," written by Prof. Kenneth Sargent of the School of Architecture at Syracuse University and published by the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company of Boston. The findings and procedures employed by safety engineers in industrial programs provide excellent suggestions applicable to many other types of buildings. The Safe Practices Pamphlets issued by the National Safety Council form indispensable references that should be in every architect's library.

One cannot study these publications without feeling that, by and large, the state of our knowledge of fundamental principles is still meager. What, for example, do we really know of the behavior of crowds on exit stairs? What influence do different step sizes, proportions, and materials have on accident rates? As a matter of fact, do we not need basic investigation of walking surfaces, the most used equipment in our daily life? Probably we would discover the primitive state of all existing flooring materials and decide that we should first determine the characteristics of an optimum flooring material, and then enlist our chemical engineers to search for that material. Industrial laboratories follow this procedure to great profit. Modern

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**Community Fund
Quota Topped**

Architects and Engineers of Detroit constituted one of the few groups in the recent Community Chest campaign that exceeded over their quota, it was reported by the chairman of the division, Clarence E. Day of the architectural firm of Harley, Ellington and Day, Inc.

According to Mr. Day, who headed the architects' group for the second successive year, the total raised by that profession was \$500 cash over the quota assigned, and not including pledges. The Architects' Division was a part of the Commercial and Professional unit, the only major unit to reach its quota at the close of the campaign.

**Board Postpones
December Exam**

The State Board of Registration for Architects, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors has cancelled its examinations usually held between the Christmas holidays. Instead they will be held sometime in the Spring, the exact date to be announced later. This will allow time for many veterans to get back in the harness and settle down to some erstwhile review. Nearly four hundred candidates, largest in the Board's history, took the examinations given last June.

Harley Guest of Navy

ALVIN E. HARLEY, of the architectural firm of Harley, Ellington and Day, Inc., Detroit, represented the architectural profession in a group of Michigan civilians who were recently honored as guests aboard the Navy's newest aircraft carrier, Saipan, at Pensacola, Fla. Mr. Harley and the Michigan group were flown in a Navy plane from the Naval Base at Grosse Ile, Mich., to Pensacola, where they were guests for 36 hours aboard the Saipan. Their hosts were Capt. W. D. Anderson, commander of the Grosse Ile Base, and Capt. John G. Crommelin, war flying hero and Saipan commander. During their stay the group watched a thrilling series of maneuvers including aerial gunnery, dive bombing, takeoffs and landings from the carrier at sea.

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